

By Jack Anderson  
and Dale Van Atta

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The Christian Science Monitor \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
USA Today \_\_\_\_\_  
The Chicago Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
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LOOSE ENDS \_ The Central Intelligence Agency is trying to finish the job that U.S. troops weren't allowed to finish in Iraq \_ the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf wanted to close the trap on Saddam's Republican Guards, but was ordered by President Bush to end the war. The Republican Guards escaped with most of their weapons, and they used those weapons to crush an uprising by the Kurds and Shiites. The White House mistakenly expected Saddam to fall of his own weight. And the CIA estimated that he would be ousted by his own disgruntled generals within six months. But they all underestimated the staying power of Saddam. He has used his familiar ruthless methods to tighten his hold on the government. The CIA cannot, under U.S. policy, assassinate Saddam, even if agents could get close to him. Instead, they are renewing their contacts with underground groups and encouraging them to arrange a coup, this time with U.S. support.

MINI-EDITORIAL CIA Director William Webster was supposed to leave office today, to make way for his replacement, Robert Gates. But President Bush has asked Webster to stay on for at least another month, pending Gates' confirmation. The way we see it, Webster had better settle in for the long haul, or at least until Bush gets it through his head that he can't keep nominating people with Iran-contra baggage to positions of power in the federal government. Bush is loyal to his friends, and that's admirable. But too many of his friends have yet to answer the two vital questions: What did they know and when did they know it? Presidential mouthpiece Marlin Fitzwater says Bush is ``frustrated and angry'' over the issue. But those questions won't go away no matter how hard the president stomps his foot.